Golden Quadrilateral Project

3095. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Golden Quadrilateral Project is moving as per schedule;

(b) the details of the foreign firms engaged in this project;

(c) the details of the problems faced by these firms; and

(d) the steps taken by his Ministry for resolving those problems and early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 132 contracts for Phase-I of National Highways Development Project, 12 contracts are being executed by foreign companies independently and 35 contracts as joint venture partners with Indian companies.

(c) No major problem has been reported by these firms. However, language problems and unfamiliarity with Indian conditions are some of the minor problems observed with respect to foreign firms, specially firms from China, Korea and Russia.

(d) The following steps are taken for early completion of Golden Quadrilateral:

(i) the contracts for works provide for bonus for early completion and penalty for delays;

(ii) close monitoring of the projects by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ministry;

(iii) speedy completion of pre-construction activities like land acquisition, tree cutting and shifting of utilities;

(iv) speedy-decision making;

(v) prompt payment to contractors; and

(vi) regular interaction jointly with consultants, builders and NHAI at Minister's level.

Repair of National Highways

†3096. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for repair and construction of highways during 2001-02;

(b) whether laying of bricks in flanks is included in repair/construction and to what extent the allocation is made for this purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action taken/likely to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the target fixed for repair and construction of new highways during 2002-03 and the details of amount allocated therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The targets for development of National Highways for 2001-02 are at Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Laying of bricks for paved shoulders in flanks of National Highways is not done any more as the brick work in flanks is not structurally sound and also does not give good riding surface.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The targets for development of National Highways including new National Highways for 2002-03 are at Statement-I. The State-wise details of funds allocated for development of National Highways during 2002-03 are at Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.